



Forest Gate Community School

8th May 2019
Ref: SS/SH2

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Head of School: Charlotte Whelan
Executive Headteacher: Simon Elliott

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Ramadan and Attendance

Ramadan Mubarak to those in our community who will be observing Ramadan this month. Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar and lasts between 29-30 days. It is a period of prayer, self-control, charity-giving and goodwill to others. Part of Ramadan is fasting which is one of the Five Pillars (fundamental religious duties) of Islam.

We are aware that this can make it difficult for school students who are fasting, particularly as Ramadan, this year, falls at the time of year when we have longest daylight hours. Additionally some students may take part in night prayers in congregation, called Tarawih prayers. This will inevitably leave those students who choose to fast and take part in Tarawih prayers feeling tired. We understand that for Muslim students and parents this may well lead to difficult decisions as they come to terms with balancing their obligations of pursuing education alongside the religious and moral duty of fasting.

We would like to urge parents/carers of those students who choose to fast and take part in Tarawih prayers, to ensure that their attendance and punctuality to school is not affected adversely. Students should still attend school each day as normal and on time. School commences at 8.30am each day and students should aim to arrive prior to this time to ensure they are not late.

Absences relating to students feeling tired as a result of fasting will be deemed an unauthorised absence. Please ensure that if your child does choose to fast, that they are well rested between fasts and that they continue to attend school each day and on time, to ensure they continue to make progress in their education.

I thank you in advance of continuing to support your child's attendance and punctuality to school during the month of Ramadan.

Yours sincerely

Mr Shahid Hussain
Assistant Headteacher